

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. KERRY and Mr. LUGAR pertaining to the introduction of S. 962 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I understand that morning business will run out in 6 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I may speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JACK KEMP

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, America lost a good friend when former Congressman Jack Kemp passed away over the weekend at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife Joanne, a marriage of 50 years, his 4 children, and 17 grandchildren.

Jack and Joanne have been personal friends of Grace and mine over the years. I will never forget one time; Jack was already a great celebrity when I came into the House of Representatives 30 years ago, in 1979, and on one of the tax bills I actually had the temerity to take him on on the floor. I will never forget the chairman of the Budget Committee walking up to me and saying: You better watch out because he is a fierce debater. Indeed, he was. He was passionate about what he believed in, and he was a strong advocate of what he believed in. That, of course, is a quality all of us admire. It was one of the attributes that drew me to Jack, he reciprocated, and we had a friendship over these last 30 years.

Clearly, the record has been set. Jack, of course, was the star quarterback for the Buffalo Bills. Before that, he was with the San Diego Chargers, and he said that his career in football prepared him well for a career in politics because he had been booed, cheered, cut, sold, traded, and hung in effigy in football. Sooner or later, those of us in politics will experience all of those. And how true a statement that is.

He talked about his career in politics. Jack represented western New York in the House for 9 terms. He ran for President. He served as the Secretary of HUD. He ran for Vice President. It is a great loss.

The one thing I want to call to the attention of the Senate is the letter he wrote to his grandchildren upon the election of Barack Obama as President. This letter was posted online on Jack's company Web site. I want you to listen to what he wrote:

... just imagine that in the face of all these indignities and deprivations, Dr. Mar-

tin Luther King could say 44 years ago, "I have an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in mankind."

Jack continues to write this letter to his grandchildren:

He described his vision for America, even as he and his people were being denied their God-given human rights guaranteed under our Constitution.

You see, real leadership is not just seeing the realities of what we are temporarily faced with, but seeing the possibilities and potential that can be realized by lifting up people's vision of what they can be.

That is just one snippet of that letter he wrote to his grandchildren.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the entire letter.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A LETTER TO MY GRANDCHILDREN

(by Jack Kemp)

Dear Kemp grandchildren—all 17 of you, spread out from the East Coast to the West Coast, and from Wheaton College in Illinois, to Wake Forest University in North Carolina:

My first thought last week upon learning that a 47-year-old African-American Democrat had won the presidency was, "Is this a great country or not?"

You may have expected your grandfather to be disappointed that his friend John McCain lost (and I was), but there's a difference between disappointment over a lost election and the historical perspective of a monumental event in the life of our nation.

Let me explain. First of all, the election was free, fair and transformational, in terms of our democracy and given the history of race relations in our nation.

What do I mean?

Just think, a little over 40 years ago, blacks in America had trouble even voting in our country, much less thinking about running for the highest office in the land.

A little over 40 years ago, in some parts of America, blacks couldn't eat, sleep or even get a drink of water using facilities available to everyone else in the public sphere.

We are celebrating, this year, the 40th anniversary of our Fair Housing Laws, which helped put an end to the blatant racism and prejudice against blacks in rental housing and homeownership opportunities. As an old professional football quarterback, in my days there were no black coaches, no black quarterbacks, and certainly no blacks in the front offices of football and other professional sports. For the record, there were great black quarterbacks and coaches—they just weren't given the opportunity to showcase their talent. And pro-football (and America) was the worse off for it.

I remember quarterbacking the old San Diego Chargers and playing for the AFL championship in Houston. My father sat on the 50-yard line, while my co-captain's father, who happened to be black, had to sit in a small, roped-off section of the end zone. Today, we can't imagine the NFL without the amazing contributions of blacks at every level of this great enterprise.

I could go on and on, but just imagine that in the face of all these indignities and deprivations, Dr. Martin Luther King could say 44 years ago, "I have an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in mankind." He described his vision for America, even as he and his people were being denied their God-given human rights guaranteed under our Constitution.

You see, real leadership is not just seeing the realities of what we are temporarily

faced with, but seeing the possibilities and potential that can be realized by lifting up peoples' vision of what they can be.

When President-elect Obama quoted Abraham Lincoln on the night of his election, he was acknowledging the transcendent qualities of vision and leadership that are always present, but often overlooked and neglected by pettiness, partisanship and petulance. As president, I believe Barack Obama can help lift us out of a narrow view of America into the ultimate vision of an America where, if you're born to be a mezzo-soprano or a master carpenter, nothing stands in your way of realizing your God-given potential.

Both Obama in his Chicago speech, and McCain in his marvelous concession speech, rose to this historic occasion by celebrating the things that unite us irrespective of our political party, our race or our socio-economic background.

My advice for you all is to understand that unity for our nation doesn't require uniformity or unanimity; it does require putting the good of our people ahead of what's good for mere political or personal advantage.

The party of Lincoln, i.e., the GOP, needs to rethink and revisit its historic roots as a party of emancipation, liberation, civil rights and equality of opportunity for all. On the other hand, the party of Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy and now Obama must put forth an agenda that understands that getting America growing again will require both Keynesian and classical incentive-oriented (supply-side) economic ideas. But there's time for political and economic advice in a later column (or two).

Let me end with an equally great historical irony of this election. Next year, as Obama is sworn in as our 44th president, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. I'm serving, along with former Rep. Bill Gray of Pennsylvania, on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Board to help raise funds for this historic occasion. President-elect Obama's honoring of Lincoln in many of his speeches reminds us of how vital it is to elevate these ideas and ideals to our nation's consciousness and inculcate his principles at a time of such great challenges and even greater opportunities.

In fact, we kick off the Lincoln bicentennial celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 19, in Gettysburg, Pa. The great filmmaker Ken Burns will speak at the Soldier's National Cemetery on the 145th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. On Thursday, Nov. 20, at Gettysburg College, we will have the first of 10 town hall forums, titled "Race, Freedom and Equality of Opportunity." I have the high honor of joining Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., Professor Allen Guezlo and Norman Bristol-Colon on the panel, with Professor Charles Branham as the moderator.

President-elect Obama talks of Abraham Lincoln's view of our nation as an "unfinished work." Well, isn't that equally true of all of us? Therefore let all of us strive to help him be a successful president, so as to help make America an even greater nation.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, this is "A Letter to my Grandchildren" by Jack Kemp on November 12, 2008, just a few days after the election of Senator Obama as President of these United States.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to shift gears from that sad note to a celebratory note because

we are approaching the 40th anniversary of the first landing on another celestial body by human beings. A number of our colleagues have joined me to honor two major firsts from the early days of America's space program.

One of those firsts is the lunar landing. We have introduced legislation to bestow the distinguished Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given by Congress, on the crew of Apollo 11. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first and second humans to set a footprint on the Moon, while command module pilot Mike Collins orbited above.

In this legislation, which we have termed the "New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal," we also honor the first American who orbited the Earth, Senator John Glenn.

Today at 87 years old, John Glenn is retired from the Senate. He lives in his home State of Ohio. He retains his home in the Washington, DC, area. We get a chance to see John from time to time as he comes back and joins his colleagues on the floor of the Senate.

These are pioneers. They are firsts—Glenn first to orbit the Earth as an American. Remember, we got surprised by the Soviets. They launched Yuri Gagarin for one orbit, and we did not even have a rocket with strong enough thrust to get into orbit.

Shortly after Gagarin, we put Alan Shepard up only into suborbit, followed by another suborbital mission with Gus Grissom. Ten months after Gagarin—and by this time the Soviets had flown a second cosmonaut, Titof, and he had orbited several times—10 months after that fateful first human flight, we took a chance. We took that Mercury capsule that John Glenn climbed into—indeed, he had to shoehorn in to get into it, it was so small—put it on top of an Atlas rocket that we knew had a 20-percent chance of failure, and the rest is history.

Of course, we remember that story. There was an indication that John's heat shield was loose which, had it been, he would have burned up on reentry. The last radio communication we had as he entered that blackout period coming through heat 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit at reentry that creates a blackout situation for radio frequency, the last thing we heard from John Glenn before he went into that blackout period was he was humming the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Oh, what words those were when suddenly we heard: "Houston, this is Friendship 7." We knew he was alive.

He paved the way for that extraordinary message back to Earth from Neil Armstrong in which he said:

This is one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.

This past weekend, I had the occasion to join with a number of our American astronauts on the induction of three more space explorers into the Astronaut Hall of Fame. The inductees were space shuttle veterans—Pinky Nelson, Bill Shepherd, and Jim

Wetherbee. They joined the elite ranks of 70 other legendary astronauts, who already include John Glenn, Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins.

I went to this particular ceremony because I had the privilege of being a crew mate of Pinky's, and Bill Shepherd, otherwise shown as "Shep," was the rookie astronaut who actually strapped us in before launch.

While I was there meeting with and seeing these three new astronauts honored by induction into the Hall of Fame, I thought about the amazing achievements we have made, how strong leadership and bold vision has changed not the space program but all our lives. I think about the true American character of exploration, whether it is the space program or exploration into the inner workings of the mind, the functions of the body, exploration into the climate of this planet, exploration of how we cope each day with all the problems we are facing, our space program being one part of our exploration which did not start just recently. We are a nation of explorers.

We did not just start with exploration. This started way back in our history. We had a frontier then. It was westward. Now that frontier is in so many other areas, including space.

The space program has given us much to improve life on Earth, from fire-resistant material to weather forecasting equipment, to scratch-resistant lenses, to new kinds of laser surgery. It has also given us selfless heroes who put their lives on the line for the benefit of all the rest of us and for the generations to come.

It was Armstrong who made that first step out onto the lunar dust. It was Glenn who paved the way for the rest of Mercury and Gemini and Apollo. It is hard to believe that all these things happened after President Kennedy presented a bold challenge before a joint session of the Congress in which he said: We are going to send a man to the Moon and return him safely to Earth by the end of the decade, and that was within a span of only 9 years.

The space program became the focal point of the Nation coming together. It inspired a generation of kids to get excited about science, math, technology, and engineering. We have seen that generation fulfill President Kennedy's promise, which was science and education have greatly enriched a new knowledge of ourselves, of our universe, and our environment. Life on Earth has improved by leaps and bounds from all the spinoffs from the space program.

Simply put: We all reap the harvest of gains because of exploration and the pioneering endeavors of brave Americans, such as these whom we honor with this gold medal, the highest congressional honor. They deserve this honor because of their significant contributions to planet Earth.

I ask our colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. There will be ample opportunity for cosponsor-

ships, in addition to those of us who have submitted the resolution.

I yield the floor. I do not have to suggest the absence of a quorum because the great Senator from the State of Delaware is here, and I want him to know what a delight and pleasure he is to serve with.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I wish to say it is an honor serving with Senator NELSON. I also commend him for his tribute to Senator Glenn and the astronauts. As usual, he is right on point. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 25 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, today marks the beginning of Public Service Recognition Week. This is a time to recognize the hard-working and devoted men and women who serve in our Federal, State, county, and municipal governments.

I wish to make particular mention of the several programs taking place throughout the week in celebration of our civil servants and their contributions. I know the Partnership for Public Service, an organization with a mission to highlight our finest Government workers and promote public service, will be marking the week by awarding their annual Service to America medals. I congratulate the medal finalists and thank them for their excellence in service to our Nation.

This is an appropriate occasion to address the subject which is so relevant to the way we face the challenges before us as a nation. These challenges have shaken the public's confidence in our financial markets, in our economy, and in our Government. We must work to restore the public's confidence.

So many of the solutions being presented from the rising cost of health care to the multiple threats from overseas, to the mortgage crisis, rely primarily on the work of dedicated and dependable civil servants. The Federal employees who work day in and day out to better our country, often at great private sacrifice, deserve our public's confidence, and that is what this speech will be all about.

In the post-9/11 era of insecurity and following years of political indecision